

2

36

**Sir Thomas Livingstons LETTER to the Honourable Major General Mackay, Commander in Chief of their Majesties Forces in Scotland, giving a true Account of the Battle at Cromb-del, with the Number Kill'd, and Prisoners taken; as likewise a List of the Names of the Officers that was taken May the first, 1690. From the Copy Printed in Scotland.**

Honoured Sir,

**A** I have in several Letters before, given you nothing but ill News, so I am glad I have now the occasion of sending you somewhat better. The General Buchan, and Brigadier Dunbar, with the Highland Army, having for a while marched up and down this Country, increased as a Snow ball daily, which affrighted and discouraged the Country so far, that upon Sunday last, I resolved to march out of Inverness, with a Detachment of four hundred men of Sir James Leslie's, six Companies of Greys, the Highland Company of Captain Mackay, three Troops of my Dragoons, and my Lord Telfer's Troop of Horse, and Camped that Night near Strathpey, where I was forced to stay two days, for my Baggage Horses coming in very slow from the Country, as likewise for the three other Troops of Dragoons from Elgin, and Capt. Sutherland's Troop of Horse. The Enemy was at this time at Strathpey, threatening to slay and burn all that would not join; whereupon I resolved the thirtieth of April, about 11 a Clock in the day, having then got certain Intelligence where they Camped, and what number they were, to march towards them; we marched the whole Night in as bad Ground as Lochaber may be, till at last, by two a Clock in the Morning we got to Ballachale, where being arrived, we discovered by the Enemies Fires their Camp. I formed my self of the Nature of the Ground, and the depth of the River, and notwithstanding they told me, the Ground was somewhat Boggy, I formed my Design to Attacke them by Surprise, for they did not know of my being arrived, but my Men and Horse being so extreemly wearied, I gave them about half an hour to refresh themselves; after which time I called the Officers together, and told them my Resolution, so that they might examine their Soldiers if they were able to do it; who unanimously told me, They would stand by me to the last man, and desired earnestly to go on. I having got Guides by this time in readiness, we passed the River by three a Clock in the Morning at one Ford, where there was a Church, the Enemy keeping a strong Guard, where I sent some Foot, and a few Dragoons to fire upon them, and amuse them, and in the mean time pull the River at another Ford below it: two Troops of Dragoons, and Capt. Morley's Highland Company was already passed before the Enemy perceived us, and then we saw them run in Parties up and down, not knowing which way to turn themselves being surprized, so I commanded all the Horse and Dragoons to join, and pursue them, which affrighted them, so that they took themselves to the Hills, and at the foot of Cromb-del we overtook them, attacked them, killing betwixt 7 or 800 upon the Place, and took about 200 Prisoners, the greater part of them Officers, the rest got off by a Mist that came just at that time upon the top of the Hill, so that we could scarcely see one another, otherways the slaughter should have been greater; so I caused to beat a Retreat, our Horses being ready to fall down, and drew up upon the low Ground, Prisoners being brought to me from all hands: Buchan, when they took the Alarm first, sent a Nephew of his, with some more Officers and Soldiers, in an old Cattle, who at first seemed to be Opinionate, I caused to surround them, and finding the Ground proper to undermine them, which they finding, surrendered themselves to the King's Mercy. Buchan got off, without Hat, Coat, or Sword, and was seen that day, and in that posture, in Glenlives, very much fatigued, carried in a Cousins House of his; Canon got away in his Night Gown; Dumfermling had gone from them about some Business the day before.

We

We have taken all the Baggage and Ammunition, and the Soldiers have got more considerable Plunder, as I thought, they carried about with them. Their King & Queens Standard, where they cited the Country People to repair to, are taken: there are said to be People of Note that are killed, but of this I can give you no certain Account, being that when we came to visit them, they were all naked, by what we could judge, there was some appearance of it.

The Resolution and forwardness of all the Troops is admirable; and although the Foot could not get up to us, they marched after us with as great diligence as possible.

It is Remarkable, that in this whole business there is not one man lost, three or four wounded, but not dangerously either, and about a dozen of Horses, but many Horses disabled. This Night we have had one of the severest that could be. I design to pursue this, and see if I can disperse what is of them yet together, which will be but a small number, being that they ran to all Arts; but the Weather is so horrible, that I fear I shall be obliged to give it over.

I pray God this beginning of this Years Campaign my Prognosticate a Blessing upon Their Majesties Forces, so that an end may be made of this troublesome War this Summer.

I desire, Sir, you would send me immediately Orders what to do with the Prisoners, for at *Liverness* they cannot be kept. Expecting your Honours Orders, what you think fit shall be done further; I am extremely troubled to make the Horse subsist, and remain. Honoured Sir, Yours, &c.

*T. Livingstone.*

The Letter is Directed thus, For the Honourable Major-General Mackay, Commander in Chief of Their Majesties Forces in Scotland.

#### POSTSCRIPT.

Captain Mackay and his High-land Company behaved very well: If, as Major Mackay says, that we can have more of them, it would not be amiss.

After the business was over, we drank your Health in good Claret taken from the Rebels. The Narration is somewhat long, and lame, but it is the true and real Account of all. Here inclosed is a List of some of the Prisoners Names, and some Papers that are taken. The Officers that are taken declare the High-land Army was betwixt fourteen and fifteen hundred.

*A List of Officers taken at the Battel of Crombdell, on the First of May, 1690.*

Capt. Hutchins.	Lieutenant Alex. Halliburton.
Capt. John Maclean.	Cornet Andrew Baird.
Capt. Allan Maclean.	Ensign John Maclean.
Capt. John Colloc.	Ensign John Macnaughton.
Lieutenant John Maclean.	Charles Cornwall, Volunteer.

*Officers taken in the Castle of Lethen-dee.*

Capt. James Buchan.	Lieutenant Sewell.
Capt. Brown.	Lieutenant Auchinclossie.
Lieutenant Scratcher.	Lieutenant Drummer.
Lieutenant Middleton.	Ensign Dunbar.
Lieutenant Brandie.	Ensign Ross.

Many more Gentlemen are taken, who will not own themselves Officers.

London, Printed for Tho. Salusbury, at the Sign of the Temple near Temple-Bar  
in Fleetstreet. 1690.